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GOVERNOR

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Governor Ehrlich Announces New Wildlife Habitat To Be Created at Hart-Miller Island

South Cell of Hart-Miller Island Dedicated to the Citizens of Maryland

BALTIMORE - Today, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., announced plans to create a new Wildlife Habitat at Hart Miller Island. Representing Governor Ehrlich, Deputy Transportation Secretary James F. Ports, Jr., announced that the State and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District is beginning the final phase for the creation of a wildlife habitat on the South Cell of Hart-Miller Island. Upon completion, this 1,140-acre project will consist of both the wildlife habitat and a recreational area for boaters and swimmers.

"Hart Miller Island is a great example of how the State is successfully creating jobs and improving the environment at the same time," said Governor Ehrlich. "This is a win-win situation for all of those that depend on the Chesapeake Bay for their livelihood, whether it is the wildlife that use it for a source of home and food or the Port of Baltimore that uses the shipping channels to create jobs for the residents of Maryland."

Deputy Secretary Ports was joined by Baltimore District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Colonel J.T. Hand; Maryland Port Administration Executive Director Brooks Royster, III; Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Ron Franks; Maryland Department of Environment Assistant Secretary Stephen Pattison; and Maryland Environmental Service Director James M. Harkins. The officials also unveiled a plaque dedicated to the citizens of Maryland.

"We're very excited about what this project means, not only for Hart-Miller Island and the environmental resources it supports, but also for the benefits it will bring to the entire Bay region," said Lt. Colonel J.T. Hand.

The Hart Miller Island project began in 1981. Completion date is slated for 2009. The Maryland Ornithological Society has stated that the facility at times has supported the largest single concentration of waterfowl in the mid-Atlantic Region. As many as 20,000 waterfowl have been observed using the island along with several rare, threatened and endangered species. For more information on Hart-Miller Island and other dredged material projects go to www.mpasafepassage.org.